DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 410 817 HE 030 391

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TITLE	The Meanings of Mass Higher Education.
INSTITUTION	Society for Research into Higher Education, Ltd., London (England).
ISBN	ISBN-0-335-19442-7
PUB DATE	1995-00-00
NOTE	198p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Open University Press, 1900 Frost Road, Suite 101, Bristol, PA 19007; phone: 800-821-8312; fax: 215-785-5515 (hardback: ISBN-0-335-19443-5, $104; paperback: ISBN-0-335-19442-7, $31.95).
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Opinion Papers (120)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Academic Standards; *Access to Education; *Admission Criteria; *Demand Occupations; Economic Factors; Educational Change; Educational Demand; Educational Opportunities; Educational Supply; Educational Trends; *Elitism; Emerging Occupations; Enrollment Influences; Foreign Countries; Higher Education; Labor Force Development; Labor Needs; Open Enrollment; *Open Universities; Postsecondary Education; *Private Colleges; Public Education; Selective Colleges; Social Stratification; Socioeconomic Influences; Student Recruitment; Technological Advancement; Technology Education; Values
IDENTIFIERS	*British; United Kingdom

ABSTRACT

This book analyzes the transformation of British higher education from a closed, elite university system into an open, mass post-secondary education system. It sees the changes in British higher education as stemming from: (1) the rapid expansion in the number of students that created pressures for a shift to a mass, open post-secondary education system; (2) the resulting erosion of the distinctive qualities of British higher education, with less rigid institutional boundaries and hierarchies; and (3) post-industrial social, political, and economic changes. Separate chapters of the book trace the evolution of British higher education, the development of a national system, and the changes in institutional systems and structures; explore the political, social, and economic contexts that created the mass higher education systems; and examine the effects of intellectual and scientific culture the interdependence of the university, science, and culture, the university's changing role in scientific training and technology innovation, and the shift from subject-based teaching to student-centered learning. While the book speaks generally to the British system, it notes that open mass education is a worldwide phenomenon and relates the British experiences to similar transformations in Europe, Australia, and the United States. (Individual chapters contain reference notes.) (CH)

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